



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-0428)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioner Bigby and Commissioner Grills Ph.D.

Excused: Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Hill

The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by Chairperson Montaño.

Called to Order. (12-0312)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and noted the lack of a quorum. Commissioner Grills joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m., establishing a quorum.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the January 4, 2012 Minutes (Continued from the January 11, 2012) and receive and file the Summary of Notes of January 11, 2012. (12-0172)

On motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Grills, unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of January 4, 2012 were approved.

After discussion, by Common Consent and there being no objection, the Summary Notes for January 11, 2012 meeting was received and filed.

Attachments: [JANUARY 4, 2012 MINUTES](#)
 [JANUARY 11, 2012 SUMMARY](#)

II. REPORTS

2. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Department of Auditor-Controller
Department of Children and Family Services
Internal Services Department
Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
Sheriff's Department (12-0314)

Department of Auditor-Controller

Carla Carr, Group Home Ombudsman of the Auditor-Controller's Office, reported her office received 14 calls during December 2011, seven were for information, three complaints were referred out, one referred to Department of Children and Family Services and two referred to Probation Department. The other calls were from children who were unable to contact their social workers.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Patricia Balonos-Gonzalez, shared information on Group Home Rates and how the Rate Classification Levels (RCL) are determined; she stated that the State of California has a website which explains how the various RCL levels are determined. Elizabeth Howard, CSA III, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will forward information regarding Human Services Aides to Commission Services staff.

Internal Services Department

Mr. William Kiriama, Manager II, Maintenance Operations Division, Internal Service Department (ISD) reported the status of Los Padrinos roof project is scheduled to begin February 6, 2012 and will be completed by the end of April 2012.

Probation Department

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Director of Placement Permanency & Quality Assurance of the Probation Department (PD), reported that the Department is now handling AB109 parolees that were recently released from State prisons that are considered non-violent, non-sexual and non-serious offenders. Many of the offenders have mental illnesses and are released without medication. The new Probation Chief is Jerry E. Powell.

During November 2011 there were 95 AWOLS, involving 93 youths, 62 remain AWOL, six returned to the group home, seven were placed with another group home, 13 were placed in juvenile hall, two went to camp, and three placed with family members while on probation. During December 2011 there were 112 AWOLS involving 102 youths, 56 remain AWOL, 19 were placed in juvenile hall, 17 returned to the group home, eight were placed in another group home, and one was terminated from the group home.

In November, a child abuse case was filed at Bayfront Youth and Family Services and was unfounded. Also a child abuse case (verbal abuse) at Ettie Lee and was unfounded. The Probation Department received a Board of Supervisors referral/complaint from a citizen who reported the group home residents next door had thrown eggs on his car and the findings were inconclusive. The youths and staff at Children Are Our Future (Kezios House) were all handcuffed while a police helicopter hovered over the home, this was deemed extreme, though one of the youth was arrested for burglarizing a neighbor's home. One child fatality; child was home for the holidays. There were three group homes on hold Phoenix House LA, Trinity Children and Family Services and Sonya Love Guidance Center. There are 7 active adoptions and the Los Angeles County Probation Department adoption program is expanding to other counties within California.

Michael Varela, Director, Camp Gonzalez, collaborated with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Department of Justice (DOJ) in changing the culture at all Probation camps. Mr. Valera stated that as a direct result of the aforementioned, counseling programs and libraries are now available at probation camps.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Amus, Sheriff's Department, reported the Sheriff's Department reported that cell phones are no longer permitted in jails or lock-ups due to recent incidents of cell phone smuggling. Board of Corrections will not allow "Special Handle Cells" in courtrooms and lock-ups. Benches with hooks in the floor will be installed instead. Sheriff Baca is now requiring all supervisors and deputies assigned to County jail facilities to commit to working two years at those facilities.

3. Chairperson's Report on Various Items for January 18, 2012. (12-0317)

Chairperson Montaño shared the following Newspaper Articles and information with the Commission.

Los Angeles Times:

- **Disgraced Deputy Working with FBI (January 18, 2012)**
- **A Thorough Review of the Jails (January 17, 2012)**
- **Sheriff Should Pay More Attention to His Recruits (January 17, 2012)**
- **Charged Filed in Jail Bribery Case (January 17, 2012)**
- **Read a "Thank You" letter from Sheriff Baca**

Following discussion, Chairperson Montaño introduced Commissioner Cheryl Grills representing the Second Supervisorial District. Commissioner Grills provided a synopsis of her career and experience as an educator, speaker and Assistant Dean at Loyola Marymount University, California.

4. Treasurer's Report for January 18, 2012. (12-0319)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that after a deposit of \$180, the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$417.46.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports. (12-0320)

Nyla Jefferson, staff, Commission Services, announced that Department of Children and Family Services staff is conducting a series of classes which focuses on educating Group Home Service Providers in preparing the Needs and Services Plans for their clients, and that the Commissioners are welcome to attend.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports. (12-0322)

Commissioner Bigby commented on the following Department of Children and Family Services Contract Compliance Monitoring Review Report.

The following Group Home was reported as not being in compliance:

- **Commissioner Bigby visited Garces Residential "Bright Horizons" - 19 #4, on January 13, 2012, however, no one was home. The facility was revisited on January 17, 2012. Commissioner Bigby noted, the clients**

Needs and Services Plans were not available to be reviewed, because the social worker had them with her off site.

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from January 12, 2012 to January 17, 2012. (12-0323)

During the reporting period the following Group Homes were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Chairperson Montaña visited Star View Group Home "Star View Children & Family Services" - 40 #2, on January 17, 2012.**
- **Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Bigby visited the Clara Shortridge Courthouse on January 11, 2012.**
- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited B & I Group Home #1 - 2 #1, on January 17, 2012; and East Los Angeles Court House on January 12, 2012.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hall visited Hillside Home for Children "Girl's Satellite Home" - 22 #1, on January 12, 2012.**
- **Commissioner Hall visited the Marina Del Rey Sheriff Station on January 11, 2012.**

Following discussion, Commissioner Bigby instructed staff to get clarification from Department of Children and Family Services and the Probation Department on the number of locks required in securing medications at Group Home facilities.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-0324)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-0325)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of January 18, 2012. (12-0326)

The January 18, 2012 meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.